Numb. 61.

# The British Apollo,

OR,

## *Curious Amuſements for the INGENIOUS.*

To which are added the moſt

## Material Occurrences Foreign and Domeſtick.

*Perform'd by a Society of GENTLEMEN.*

From Wednesday September 8th. to Friday September 10th. 1708.

Q. *GEntlemen, For the ſake of the Amorous Couple I have troubl'd you with a few Objections to your Anſwer of that Queſtion, which relates to the Lawfullneſs of Marriage between Couſin Germans; and for their ſakes deſire you would publiſh them, with your Reflections upon them.*

1. *You ſay this Marriage is not forbid either by the Laws of God or the Laws of the Land; and further as to the Opinion of its being unproſperous, it is only owing to the partiality of the vulgar: Thus far Gentlemen I agree with you; Now for your Objections: Firſt (you ſay) a deference ought to be paid to the Common Opinion, and therefore it is moſt Generous to forbear it: To which I anſwer, That for that very reaſon it ought to be the leſs comply'd with; in as much as any received erroneous Opinion is a greater obſtacle to truth than any private one, nor will Truth take place, till the Error is removed; and conſequently the Error ought to be diſcourag'd as much as poſſible, even as much as Truth is preferable to Falſehood. And were it otherwiſe, even you your ſelves, Gentlemen, would be to blame in the Attempt you have often made to remove ſome Errors, which the Generality of Mankind labour under.*

2. *You ſay, 'tis not diſcreet to venture on an Action which is but one remove from Inceſt. To which I reply; That as nothing can make the Action a Crime but a poſitive prohibition of it by a Lawgiver, ſo this not being forbid is as Lawful (tho' but one remove from inceſt) as tho' it was five hundred. Nor are the Perſons who ſo marry any more Chargeable with it, than that Man is of Atheiſm who believes one only God. Nor is there any more reaſon for your ſaying, that He, who ſo marries, does well; yet He, who forbears, does better; than there is to ſay, that tho' He, that acts reaſonably and Juſtly, does well, yet He that forbears to act upon an Erroneous Principle does better. Laſtly, as to your Quotation from the Apoſtle, that only relates to indifferent Things, ſuch as Meat and Drink; but I can hardly ſuppoſe, that the parting of Two, whoſe Affections are ſetled, can be thought ſo Indifferent a Matter:*

*A.* Tho' Truth must never be Diſſembled, yet no Errors, but ſuch as are of Dangerous Conſequence, can demand ſo *Particular* an endeavour to Unravel, to Confute them. And this is what we learn from even *Truth it ſelf.* For our bleſſed Lord, tho' he came on purpoſe to Inſtruct an Ignorant, an Erring World, yet, when addreſs'd with Interrogatories of little or no Importance, *was not Careful to anſwer them in thoſe Matters.* And if you believe, as the beſt Aſtronomers are now agreed, that the Earth moves round the Sun, that Accomodation to the Vulgar Opinion, *the Sun knowes his going down,* ſeem'd rather to Confirm the Ignorant in their Error, than Convince them of it.

We may Publickly Diſſent from a Common Error, and yet Abſtain from the Practice, we our ſelves allow. And the Reaſon, why it may not be amiſs to pay ſuch a Practical, tho' not a Speculative, deference to the General Opinion about the matter in debate, is namely this, becauſe They, who look upon the Marriage of Couſin Germans, as a degree of Inceſt, are both Offended at ſuch a Marriage, and (as to too Many of them) will be ready to Cenſure the Married Couple. And therefore (we Repeat it) it is a Generous Proceedure to have ſuch regard for our Fellow-Creatures, for our Fellow Chriſtians, as to Refrain from that, which wou'd at once Diſguſt them, and tempt them to that (Unwarrantable indeed) Repriſal, of their Ill Opinion of us. And you cannot be Inſenſible, that a Reputation in the World is a matter not to be Diſregarded, ſince you know, who has ſaid it, *a good name is rather to be choſen than great riches, and loving favour rather than ſilver and gold.*

We muſt beg leave to tell you, that you are Miſtaken, either in your Opinion, or in the Term made uſe of, when you ſay, that *nothing can make the Action a Crime, but the Poſitive prohibition of it by a Lawgiver*; for Poſitive prohibition is a thing Diſtinct from Natural religion. And therefore were Inceſt a crime only by Poſitive prohibition, Our thoughts wou'd entirely fall in with Your's, ſince then the very Next remove wou'd be as far from Sin as the moſt Remote. But ſince Inceſt is Forbid by the Law of Nature, ſince there is Naturally in our minds an Innate abhorrence of ſuch a Kindred-Marriage, this gives us an Idea, how that, which Borders upon ſuch a Vice, may have ſomething in it not altogether ſo Praiſe-worthy. And indeed, ſome will tell you, that they cannot forbear to behold their Couſin-Germans as a kind of Brothers and Siſters.

You ſeem to make no Diſtinction between an Application and a Quotation. For as one Rule may be Applied to Many inſtances, ſo that paſſage in St. *Paul* may be Applied to other particulars, than what He applies it to. If the Marriage of Couſin-Germans be Lawful, and yet not Convenient, it naturally falls in with that Aſſertion, tho' the Apoſtle might have no ſuch matter in his view. And therefore we have nothing to do with the Context about things Indifferent. Tho' yet upon Your Foundation we cou'd form ſuch a Dilemma as wou'd be Difficult to Anſwer. But ſince you exempt the Caſe propos'd from things Indifferent, we wou'd ask, whether the Loving Couple have ſo ſettled their Affections, as that they cannot be Happy, unleſs joyn'd together. If their Caſe be this, what is barely Lawful, muſt of conſequence be not only Convenient, but Neceſſary too, ſince the Uneaſineſs reſulting from ſo Ungrateful an Abſtinence wou'd render them not ſo well Diſpos'd for other Neceſſary duties.

Q. *Gentlemen, It is not many days ſince I rid out in a warm Evening, where near the Town's end, I ſaw a vaſt Number of ſmall Frogs on the Road, not larger than Bees, which ſome People affirm'd came down in a ſhower of Rain, which fell juſt before: Your Opinion thereon will much oblige Your Humble Servant* Curioſo.

*A.* That Opinion of young Frogs coming down in a ſhower of rain certainly deſerves not the laſt rank among Vulgar Errors; we may almoſt as well imagine, that any other Animal Terreſtrial or Aquatick ſhould drop from the Clouds. Do not we ſee plainly that their Spawn lies together in the water in a cluſter, which being of a glutinous Subſtance is not very apt to be diſpers'd and carried up into the Air to be hatch'd there. If then after a ſhower of rain eſpecially in warm weather, they are ſometimes found in great numbers upon the ground, it is only becauſe by that pleaſant rain they are invited abroad from thoſe holes where they lay lurking before.

Q. *What is Friendſhip, and wherein doth it conſiſt?*

*A. Friendſhip* Conſiſts in the Perfect Union and Harmony of Souls, like two ſtrings of ſeveral Inſtruments, tim'd to an Uniſon, touch one, and it gives the other the ſame Motion: Neither has a ſeparate Propriety, but all things are in Common, therefore all Preſents, *&c.* are to be avoided, for thereby I call in Queſtion my Friends Confidence in me, and exclude his Right, by claiming a ſole Title thereunto, which Inferrs a ſeparate Intereſt. I muſt not Condole his Misfortunes, but Feel them; nor Congratulate his Proſperity, but directly Taſt it; for all Proteſtations invallidate my Aſſurances of his Friendſhip; in ſhort, we are rather but *One Soul*, deſtin'd to inform two Bodies, but always inclining them to the *ſame Action*.

Q. *Why Fiſh, tho' bred in Salt Water, are yet Freſh?*

*A.* The Solution of the Queſtion naturally follows from the Neceſſary allowance of theſe Undeniable Propoſitions. 1. That the whole Body receives it's nouriſhment from the Blood. 2. That the Nutriment, we take in, cannot be Secreted into the Blood, till Rarified by the Heat of the Stomach. And 3. That Salt is Incapable of ſuch a Rarefaction.

Q. *Whether a Perſon is likely to underſtand or remember better by reading, or having any Writing read to him?*

*A.* The Senſation of ſeeing is allow'd, as the Quickeſt, ſo the moſt ſenſible of all our Senſations. Whence it muſt of conſequence make the Deepeſt and moſt Laſting impreſſion on the Mind, agreeable to that repreſentation of the Poet;

*Segniùs irritant animos demiſſa per Aurem,*
*Quàm quæ ſunt Oculis ſubjecta Fidelibus; aut quæ*
*Ipſe ſibi tradit Spectator.*——

Things thro' the Ear receiv'd more Faintly ply
Attentive Minds, than thoſe the Faithful Eye
With Vig'rous Energy reports; or thoſe
Spectators to themſelves declare.——

Apollo,

Q. *They ſay you are a good honeſt Cock; and get a great deal of Money. I wou'd beg the Favour of you to lend me about* 30 s. *till Quarter-day. Pray let me know in your next, your reaſons for, and againſt it, and your will Oblige Yours,* T. F.

*From my Garret in*
*Swan Alley.*

*I have but one poor Penny now left.*

*A.* Our not being able to give a Reaſon for it, upon our ſhort Acquaintance, is a ſufficient Reaſon againſt it.

Q. *Gentlemen, a Lady who's Beauty is impair'd by Grief, and not Years, begs the favour to know if this Misfortune may be redreſs'd by any means, excepting theſe hateful ways of painting and waſhes. I need not tell you this wou'd be highly obliging to the Ladies, and (if you can endure their impertinence) may be of vaſt advantage, for aſſure your ſelves you'l have Crowds of Cuſtomers?*

*A.* If the Lady be ſo Young, that the firſt Grief hath not been the Occaſion of a ſecond, we mean for the loſs ſhe ſuſtain'd by the firſt, ſhe may have Grounds to Hope a Recovery, and that very *Hope* tranſport her ſo, as to be a Remedy; but if, tho' Grief may have purchas'd the Misfortune, Years have enter'd on the Premiſes, we diſpair of a Cure.

Q. *Gentlemen, I deſire you to Inform me (among all Diſtempers incident to Mankind) Why the Small-Pox viſits us but once, with your Reaſons, Yours,* A. B.

*A.* This Queſtion was long ſince ſent us, to which, upon being inform'd how to ſend a private Anſwer, we ſent one, it not being proper (for ſome Reaſons) to anſwer it publickly.

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# POEMS.

Q. *YOU Sons of* Apollo,
*Tell me, if you can,*
*What ſort of an Apple*
*Did tempt the firſt Man?*
*Now if you can ſolve it,*
*Your fame I'll advance, Sir,*
*And you will Oblige me*
*With your ſpeedy Anſwer.*
*Yours, Curioſity,*
*With Generoſity,*
*And without Animoſity.*

*A.* From ſuch *Curious* Queſtions
Refrain, if you Can;
Nor be tempted with That,
Which did tempt the Firſt Man.
Your's not ſo Curious;
But more Penurious
Of an *Itch* ſo Furious.

Q. *Brights*

Q. *Bright Sons of Wit, on whom we juſtly wait*
*To know the Iſſues of our doubtful fate;*
*My Youthful Soul, which nothing e'er could move*
*But the chaſt joys of Sympathetick Love:*
*The Blooming Beauties of a Nymph have charm'd,*
*Whom thirteen Years have with ſuch ſweetneſs arm'd,*
*That whilſt I write, my Blood's in Raptures warm'd.*
*Offspring of* Phœbus, *dictate the Way*
*I ought to take; Admired Sages Say,*
*How ſhall I fix this Fair One ſo, that when*
*Maturer age her perfect Charms attain,*
*I may poſſeſs her Virgin-heart alone,*
*And claim by Hymen's Laws her for my own?*

Philoneotes.

*A.* If Charms *in Embrio* ſuch a Conqueſt gain,
How will their *Perfect Growth* encreaſe your pain!
Retire, fond Bard; nor our advice diſpiſe:
You Tempt your Fate to truſt her *Future* Eyes.
If *Now* the Sportive Boy your Blood inflame,
We dread the iſſue of an *After-game.*
Lo! How the mounting flames to Heaven Aſpire,
Turn Salamander, if you'd Bear the Fire.

Q. *Born in a Cave, and in wild Deſarts bred,*
*Whoſe lonely Paths few but rude Monſters tred;*
*Where Ruſticks for their Food with Sweat and Pain,*
*Plough Rocky Mountains, barren as my Brain:*
*I'm come to lay me proſtrate at your Feet,*
*And humbly there addreſs the Throne of Wit;*
*Wou'd Nature (oh!) my Inclination joyn,*
*I'd do't in Numbers mighty as your own.*
*What Wonders then will you perform in time,*
*When by your mighty Charms I'm brought to Rhyme;*
*I who cou'd ne'er lay claim to Wit nor Senſe,*
*Much leſs to Poetry cou'd make pretence,*
*By your ſtrong Influence can now with eaſe,*
*Write Verſe in any Meaſure as I pleaſe;*
*Nay, now I'm hurry'd on in very ſpite,*
*Of Nature, and my Scouling Stars, to write.*
*And all my Thoughts (do what I can) keep Time*
*To Numbers, then come dancing out in Rhyme.*
*The Prophet once with many a heavy Stroke*
*Of Crabtree-Cudgel, did an Aſs provoke,*
*To ſpeake his Shame, but then in Proſe he ſpoke.*
*You'll greater Wonders do by milder ways,*
*And greater Aſſes teach to ſing your praiſe*
*In Tuneful Strains, and ſtronger Lines than theſe.*
*Ye mighty Bards to whom my Praiſe is due,*
*What muſt I do to Think and Write like you,*
*For now I am begun I wou'd the World out-do.*

*A.* Boldly Proceed, your own Bright Foot-(ſteps Prize,
Let thoſe direct, with thoſe alone adviſe:
Such Pregnant Lines the Soundeſt Rules Contain,
Where Sterling Wit and ſprightly Fancies Reign:
Such are the Streams that from your Brain Diſtill,
And ſuch the Product of your Fertil Quill.
Had ſuch a Bard from our Endeavours ſprung,
We might with *Ennius* boaſt our Golden Dung:
But thoſe Rich Bloſſoms which your Rhimes adorn,
Speak you not *Poet* made, but *Poet* Born.

Q. Apollo, *I ſmile,*
*To ſee what a while,*
*Your Anſwer is is coming to Light;*
*Sure a Query in Proſe,*
*Is not ſuch a Poſe,*
*As will Dark'n your Wiſdom moſt Bright:*
*If not, let me ſee,*
*What Reaſon may be,*
*Why People do walk in their ſleep?*
*If you further delay,*
*I'll Certainly ſay,*
*Your Wit's in a Lethargie Deep.*

*A.* Good Sir, be not warm,
We have done you no harm,
For your Letter was laid in a heap,
And we ſafely may ſay,
Far more quietly lay,
Than your ſelf, if you walk in your ſleep;
Now as for the *Query,*
Tho' calmly we hear ye,
Twas anſwer'd *long ſince* we declare,
But ſince you have writ,
With more *Malice* than *Wit,*
You may look, for we'll not tell you *where.*

Q. *You ſay,* Apollo, *is the Sun,*
*And that was ſince the World begun:*
*Then is it not abſurd to ſay*
*He is the God of Wiſdom, pray.*
*Wiſdom was there when Nature's Frame*
*From Nothing, into Being came,*
*And there his part was to Direct,*
*And Omnipotence to Effect*
*The Matter, that was Pre-Elect.*

*A.* The God, that made the World and Thee,
The God of Wiſdom, only *He,*
In that great Work perform'd the Part
Of Boundleſs Wiſdom, Boundleſs Art:
His Glorious End, his Dread Deſign,
Was Perfect all, and all Divine:
Twere Prudence then, would you refrain
Your Raſh and inadvertent Strain
Of mixing Matters Sacred with Prophane.

Q. *Ye Sons of* Apollo,
*Whoſe Parts are not ſhallow,*
*Pray tell me the Reaſon why,*
*To the Queſtion I ſent,*
*Wherein no harm was meant,*
*You have not yet made a Reply?*
*For you ever declar'd*
*You'd have a regard,*
*Your Cuſtomers always to pleaſe;*
*And never decline*
*Your Solutions Divine,*
*And* Lady's *deſire to eaſe.*

*My*

*My Muſe's intent*
*On a Silk-worm is bent,*
*The nature thereof to adviſe,*
*Which was ſent you I am ſure,*
*About five Weeks or more,*
*In dull Proſe, which you ſeem to deſpiſe.*
*A.* Cry'you Mercy fair Lady,
Some *Wag* has betray'd ye,
Nor brought us the Queſtion you ſent,
For to pleaſe the kind Fair,
Pray believe us, we ſwear,
Is *Apollo*'s moſt hearty Intent.
But if you'd be eas'd,
Nor approve being teiz'd,
In expecting the favour ſo long,
Send your Queſtion again,
For we'l at it amain,
And Anſwer it *Right* or *Wrong*.

Whereas there happen'd not Room enough to inſert all the laſt Poem of *Wedneſdays* Paper, we thought fit to inſert it here, and ask the Gentleman's Pardon for the Omiſſion.

Or Dew diſtilling on the Mirtle Grove,
Or Down which decks the Pinions of the God of (Love.

Your Hum'rous Lines were never Rival'd yet,
The quick Reſults of ſprightly, Boundleſs Wit:
Thoſe Tart *Laconick Strains*, aptly detect
Follies, which ſerious Senſe can ne'er affect.
The ſnarling Criticks now with Shame withdraw,
Struck with a juſt, a Venerable Awe,
They find their baſe Reflections, Fond Miſtakes,
Diſtinguiſh'd for their Pains, for Fools, or Rakes.
Go on Brave, Gen'rous Souls, *Inform* Mankind,
Whilſt *Profit* mixed with *Delight* we find,
A *Glorious Recompence* may all your *Labours* Find

*Robert Howard.*

*Note*, That Title Pages to the *Britiſh Apollo*, may be had by ſuch who make Collections, of the Men in their Walks, at a Penny a piece.

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*SIR*,

THE Adviſes from Bruſſells Sep. 13. are, That on the 8th Inſtant a Convoy of 400 Waggons, Laden with Ammunition, and 9 pieces of Cannon, went from thence towards the Grand Army under a ſtrong guard of that Garriſon, Commanded by General Paſcal the Governor, who return'd thither on the 11th. after having ſeen that Convoy ſafely arriv'd at Gramont: And another Convoy is preparing to be ſent greater than the former. According to the report of Deſerters from Lille, Mareſchal de Boufflers ſeems reſolv'd to ſtand a general Storm, and to die on the Breach with his Sword in his hand. Tis Adviſed from the Hague Sept. 14. That the Letters from the Upper Rhine, give an account that the Elector of Hannover continues at Hokenheim, and gives ſo much jealouſy to the French, that they dare not make any Detachments for the Netherlands and Dauphine as they deſign'd. That the Queen of Portugal has been oblig'd to land at the Brill, by reaſon of a contrary Wind, but Her Majeſty embark'd yeſterday at ſeven in the Morning in order to ſail for Portſmouth. That Letters from the Camp before Lille ſay, that the ſlowneſs in carrying on the Siege was occaſion'd partly by ſome miſunderſtandings between the Chief Directors of the Attacks, and partly by their not having at firſt a ſufficient Number of Heavy Cannon, but that however it was not doubted, but the Town wou'd be in our Hands by the 19 or 20th Inſtant at fartheſt. The States have ratify'd the convention made with the Province of Artois and ſome other Diſtricts for Contributions amounting to 1250000 Florins, out of which they have reſolv'd to preſent the Count de Tilly with 1000 Piſtoles; Five Lieutenants General who were under him with 400 Piſtoles each; five Majors General with 200 each; and 13 Brigadiers with an 100 each; as an ackuowledgment of their good ſervices. That the arrival of fifteen Eaſt-India Ships upon their Coaſt has occaſion'd a great Joy, for the Merchants began to be in great pain for them, and five Engliſh Ships came in company with them. That a thouſand French Horſe which lie between Ghent and Bruſſells endeavour'd to intercept the Engliſh Pay-Maſter-General, who had great Sums with him, but he ſafely arriv'd at Bruſſells the 12th. 'Tis likewiſe adviſ'd that the Duke of Savoy has taken Peneſtrelles, and made the Garriſon Priſoners of War. And that the Affairs of the [illegible] Malecontents begin to decline apace; for the [illegible] of Neutra ſurrender'd the 24th paſt, to General Heiſter, who is to beſiege Newhauſel: That General Oskay one of the beſt Leaders is come over to the Emperor with 2000 Men, and 'tis adviſed from Vienna, that the Counts Eſterhaſi and Bathiani offer'd to do the like with more Troops upon promiſe of preferment in the Emperors Service. That the Miniſter of the King of Pruſſia has notify'd the Marriage of his Maſter with the Princeſs of Mechlenburgh Swerin. Which concludes this from Yours, *&c.*

Any Perſons upon Directing their Letters (Superſcrib'd for the *Britiſh Apollo*) to Mr. *Keeble* in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, Mr. *Bickerton* in St. *Paul*'s Church-Yard, Bookſellers, or to the Printer hereof, may have this Paper brought to their Houſes (in the City or Suburbs) at 2 *s. per* Quarter, and the Monthly Papers at 6 *d. per* Quarter more: Thoſe who come within the Quarter, to have proportional Deductions at the End. Alſo Books of Guards neatly Bound, to keep them in, at 2 *s.* a-piece. Likewiſe whole Sets from the Beginning, paying only 3 *s.* 6 *d.* for all before Midſummer, and the reſt to go; at which Places Advertiſements are taken in at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* each.

*Note*, That they who live in the Country may appoint a Friend in Town to take them in for them, or order ſome Inn-Keeper to pay for them Quarterly. For we cannot depend on the Payment of Carriers, ſince they come not in on thoſe hours as our Servants can meet with them in their Walks.

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